

Steven W. Troxler Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division

Joseph W. Reardon
Assistant Commissioner
for Consumer Protection

Douglas Meckes, DVM State Veterinarian

October 7, 2020

Beverly Ring Owner Camp-Run-A-Mutt 401 N. Church Street Unit 506 Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTY

Re: CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSMENT FOR VIOLATION OF N.C. GENERAL STATUTE § 19A-28.

AWS-CP-2020-7

Facility: Camp-Run-A-Mutt

2908 Rozzelles Ferry Rd, Charlotte, NC

License #20541

Dear Ms. Ring:

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 19A-40, I am issuing this notice that you individually and d/b/a Camp-Run-A-Mutt is hereby assessed a civil penalty of \$500.00 as provided in the enclosed Notice of Violation.

With regard to the civil penalty, within 60 days from the date of receipt, you must do one of the following:

- 1. Pay the civil penalty assessment; or
- 2. File a written petition for a contested case hearing with the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings to appeal the penalty assessment.

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 150B-22, either party to a dispute may initiate informal settlement negotiations at any time. To negotiate a settlement of this assessment, you may contact me by telephone at (919) 707-3280. Settlement offers do not extend the 60-day deadline for payment or filing of a contested case petition.

Additional information about your options is provided below:

PAYMENT

To pay the penalty, please send your payment by check or money order made payable to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Dr. Patricia Norris
Director, Animal Welfare Section
1030 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030

APPEAL

If you file a contested case petition, it must be in writing and in the form prescribed by N.C.G.S. § 150B-23. The petition must be filed with the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") within 60 days of your receipt of this document. Additionally, the petition must be accompanied by a filing fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00). Payment can be made by cash, money order, certified check or check drawn on an attorney's trust account. Make checks payable to: Office of Administrative Hearings. File the petition and one copy with:

Office of Administrative Hearings 6714 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-6714

Any questions about filing a petition may be directed to the Clerk of OAH by telephone at 919-431-3000.

You must serve NCDA&CS by mailing a copy of the petition to:

Ms. Tina Hlabse
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Registered Agent and General Counsel
1001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

Payment of the penalty will not foreclose further enforcement action against you for any new violation. If the violations which resulted in the assessment are of a continuing nature, NCDA&CS reserves the right to assess additional civil penalties in the future or take other enforcement action against you.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patricia Norris, DVM, MS

Director, Animal Welfare Section

Down DVM, MS

Attachment: Notice of Violations, Assessment of Civil Penalty

cc: R. Douglas Meckes, DVM, State Veterinarian Tina Hlabse, General Counsel, NCDA&CS

Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS Christopher R. McLennan, Assistant Attorney General

COUNTY OF WAKE	OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, VETERINARY DIVISION ANIMAL WELFARE SECTION
IN THE MATTER OF) NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS AND) ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY
BEVERLY RING) FOR VIOLATIONS OF N.C. GENERAL
OWNER OF) STATUTE § 19A-28
CAMP-RUN-A-MUTT)
)

Acting pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 19A-40, Dr. Patricia Norris, Director, Animal Welfare Section ("AWS"), North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ("NCDA&CS") makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Until June 30, 2020, Camp-Run-A-Mutt ("the kennel") owned and operated by Beverly Ring, was a boarding kennel, licensed pursuant to N.C. General Statute ("N.C.G.S.") § 19A-28.
- 2. On March 1, 2020, AWS mailed a postcard to the kennel reminding the kennel that the license would expire on June 30, 2020 and provided information on the renewal application process.
- 3. On July 27, 2020, Dr. Norris informed the kennel in a letter that the renewal application had not been received and the kennel was in violation of N.C.G.S. § 19A-28. Dr. Norris directed the kennel to submit the renewal application within 10 days and notified the kennel of the potential for the assessment of a Civil Penalty should the kennel continue to violate this statute.
- 4. On September 23, 2020 AWS Animal Health Technician Jay Blatche ("Inspector Blatche") visited the kennel to see if it was still operating as a boarding kennel. He noted the continued operation as a boarding kennel and spoke with owner of the kennel. Inspector Blatche directed the kennel owner to immediately submit the license renewal application and fee and reiterated that the kennel was subject to a Civil Penalty for operating a boarding kennel without a license.
- 5. As of October 7, 2020, AWS has not received an application for the renewal of the boarding kennel license from the kennel.

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of this investigation, AWS concludes that the kennel, either by act or omission, violated the following provision:

NCGS § 19A-28 by operating a boarding kennel without obtaining a license to operate such an establishment from the AWS Director.

(See Appendix for text of referenced General Statutes and Administrative Code)

CIVIL PENALTY

As required by N.C. General Statute § 19A-40, in determining the amount of the civil penalty, I have considered the degree and extent of harm caused by the violations listed above.

Accordingly, Beverly Ring as owner and operator of Camp Run A Mutt is hereby assessed a civil penalty for the following violations:

\$500.00 for violation of NCGS § 19A-28 by operating a boarding kennel without obtaining a license to operate such an establishment from the AWS Director. This is the second violation of this statute by this kennel

\$500.00 TOTAL AMOUNT ASSESSED

Date

Patricia Norris, DVM, MS

Director, Animal Welfare Section

North Carolina Department of

Agriculture & Consumer Services

Appendix

REFERENCED LAWS AND REGULATIONS

§ 19A-28. License required for public auction or boarding kennel.

No person shall operate a public auction or a boarding kennel unless a license to operate such establishment shall have been granted by the Director. Application for such license shall be made in the manner provided by the Director. The license period shall be the fiscal year and the license fee shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each license period or part thereof beginning with the first day of the fiscal year. (1977, 2nd Sess., c. 1217, s. 9; 1987, c. 827, s. 65; 1989, c. 544, s. 18; 2011-145, s. 31.5(b).)

§ 19A-40. Civil Penalties.

The Director may assess a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) against any person who violates a provision of this Article or any rule promulgated thereunder. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Director shall consider the degree and extent of harm caused by the violation. The clear proceeds of civil penalties assessed pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2. (1995, c. 516, s. 6; 1998-215, s. 3.)